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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/783,851	02/20/2004	Ronald L. Heiney	BLD920030032US1	7662

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EXAMINER

HAMDAN, WASSEEM H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2854

DATE MAILED: 01/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<p align="center">Office Action Summary</p>	Application No. 10/783,851	Applicant(s) HEINEY ET AL.	
	Examiner Wasseem H Hamdan	Art Unit 2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 February 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>02/20/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 2, 4, 5 and 7 are objected to because of the following informalities: claim 2, recites “the plurality of print objects includes the plurality of printers”, in lines 1 and 2. In the specification on page 12 , lines 16-18, the applicant discloses that the types of the “print objects” are for example, a jobs table 214, an accounts table 216, a directory table 218 and history tablets, also on page 16 lines 4-15, the applicant discloses some more information about the “print objects”. Technically the claim language of claim 2 is awkward. The examiner understands that the applicant did not mean that a physical printer stored in the “print objects”. Appropriate correction is required.

Specification

2. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: the specification does not have support for the claim limitation “second portion” that recite in claims 11 and 20. In order to expedite prosecution the examiner assumed and based on the applicant specification page 7, lines 3-14, and page 11, lines 14-21, that the second portion meant to be the next level of the organized hierarchically. This hierarchy can be reflected in the organization of the tables are provided by the “relational database”. Based on this assumption the examiner will examine claims 11 and 20 accordingly.

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3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: page 11, line 21, after “116”, it appears that there is missing a punctuation (a period “.”) or a text. Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

4. The drawings are objected to because in Figure 1, the element 24 (client) on the left, should be changed to 22, based on the specification page 2, line 9. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled “Replacement Sheet” in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stuart (US Patent 6,466,935 B1).

Regarding claim 1, Stuart discloses a system for providing distributed printing [FIG. 1; column 1, lines 32 -34] comprising:

a plurality of printers [140, 141; column 3, lines 25-29],

at least one print spooler [column 8, lines 45-46; 501; 225]; for managing printing operations [225] of the plurality of printers [140; 141] ; and

at least one relational database [124; 229] coupled with the print spooler [column 8, lines 45-46; 225], the relational database including a plurality of tables [column 2, line 4; Figures 3 and 4; column 4, lines 37-38], the plurality of tables storing a plurality of print objects [column 2, lines 16-21; Figures 3 and 4].

Regarding claim 2, Stuart discloses the plurality of print objects includes the plurality of printers [column 2, lines 29-37; FIG. 3 (311-316); column 7, lines 66-67; column 8, lines 1-5. Please see "Claim Objections"].

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Regarding claim 3, Stuart discloses the plurality of print objects includes a plurality of attributes for each of the plurality of printers [FIG. 3; column 2, lines 52-53; column 7, lines 48-56; column 7, lines 66-67; column 8, lines 1-16].

Regarding claim 4, Stuart discloses a user of the system has access to each of the plurality of printers [130; 230].

Regarding claim 5, Stuart discloses the print spooler [column 8, lines 45-46; 501; 225] and relational database [124; 229] are configured so that continuous printing can be performed using the plurality of printers [column 6, lines 21-28].

Regarding claim 6, Stuart discloses the plurality of print objects includes a plurality of print jobs [FIG. 6].

Regarding claim 7, Stuart discloses the plurality of print objects includes a plurality of attributes for each of the plurality of print jobs [FIG. 4; column 8, lines 37-42].

Regarding claim 8, Stuart discloses the plurality of print objects includes a plurality of users [FIGS. 3 and 4; column 8, lines 26-30; 140; 141 (Stuart disclosures in column 8, lines 26-30 for one of the users 140. Similarly it does apply for the other users 141 via the network and the user interface 130)].

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Regarding claim 9, Stuart discloses the plurality of objects includes a plurality of print events [310; 311].

Regarding claim 10, Stuart discloses the print spooler further includes a graphical user interface capable of displaying a status of each of a portion of the plurality of objects [130; column 3, lines 15-16].

7. Regarding claim 11, Stuart discloses the graphical user interface is updated using a query which retrieves only the status for each of a second portion of the plurality of objects that was updated after a previous query [column 4, lines 37-55 (based on the objection and the assumption set forth in the office action for the specification). the “Relational Database System” structure and performance, as Stuart disclosed in column 4, reads on the claim language, which also confirmed by the “Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary”, Third Edition on pages 403 and 404, as described that the “Relational Database System” is: “a database or database management system that stores information in tables--rows and columns of data--and conducts searches by using data in specified columns of one table to find additional data in another table. In a relational database, the rows of a table represent records (collections of information about separate items) and the columns represent fields (particular attributes of a record). In conducting searches, a relational database matches information from a field in one table with information in a corresponding field of another table to produce a third table that combines requested data from both tables. For example, if one table contains the fields EMPLOYEE-ID, LAST-NAME, FIRST-NAME, and HIRE-DATE, and another contains the fields DEPT, EMPLOYEE-ID, and

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SALARY, a relational database can match the EMPLOYEE-ID fields in the two tables to find such information as the names of all employees earning a certain salary or the departments of all employees hired after a certain date. In other words, a relational database uses matching values in two tables to relate information in one to information in the other. Microcomputer database products typically are relational databases. *Compare* flat-file database, inverted-list database.”

Regarding claim 12, Stuart discloses a system for providing distributed printing comprising.

a plurality of printers [140; 141; column 3, lines 25-29],

at least one print spooler for managing printing operations [column 8, lines 45-46; 501; 225]; and

at least one relational database [124; 229] coupled with the print spooler [225], the relational database including a plurality of tables [column 2, line 4; Figures 3 and 4; column 4, lines 37-38] for storing a plurality of print objects [column 2, lines 16-21; Figures 3 and 4], the plurality of tables includes a printer table for the plurality of printers [column 6, lines 21-28], a jobs table for a plurality of print jobs [FIG. 6], an accounts table for a plurality of users [FIGS. 3 and 4; column 8, lines 26-30; 140; 141 (Stuart disclosures in column 8, lines 26-30 for one of the users 140. Similarly it does apply for the other users 141 via the network and the user interface 130)], and a history table for a plurality of print events [311] and wherein the plurality of objects includes the plurality of printers [140; 141], the plurality of print jobs, the plurality of users, and the plurality of print events, the plurality of printers, the plurality of print jobs, the plurality of

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users [FIGS. 3 and 4; column 4, lines 37-38. Technically, that's what the "Relational Database System" (RDS) does. Please see the definition for RDS above].

Regarding claim 13, Stuart discloses the plurality of tables includes a history table and the plurality of objects includes a plurality of print events [310].

Regarding claim 14, Stuart discloses that the system of claim 12 further comprising a network interface layer [110] for connecting the at least one print spooler [225] with the at least one relational database [124, 229] .

Regarding claim 15, Stuart discloses a method for performing distributed printing [FIG. 1; column 1, lines 32 -34] comprising:

(a) using at least one print [column 8, lines 45-46; 501; 225] to access at least one relational database [124; 229] including a plurality of tables [column 2, line 4; Figures 3 and 4; column 4, lines 37-38] to schedule at least one print job [column 5, lines 65-66], the plurality of tables storing a plurality of print objects including a plurality of printers [FIGS. 3 and 4], and

(b) printing the at least one print job to at least one of the plurality of printers [column 2, lines 25-26; column 6, lines 66-67].

Regarding claim 16, Stuart discloses the plurality of print objects includes a plurality of attributes for the plurality of printers and a plurality of job attributes for the at least one print job

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printers [FIG. 3; column 2, lines 52-53; column 7, lines 48-56; column 7, lines 66-67; column 8, lines 1-16], and wherein the accessing step (a) further includes:

(a1) matching a portion of the plurality attributes of the at least one of the plurality of printers to the plurality of job attributes for the at least one print job [column 10, lines 34-39. Technically, that's what the "Relational Database System" (RDS) does. Please see the definition for RDS above].

Regarding claim 17, Stuart discloses the accessing step (a) is performed using a query provided by the at least one print spooler to the relational database [column 4, lines 37-55; 220].

Regarding claim 18, Stuart discloses the plurality of objects includes a plurality of print events [310; 311].

Regarding claim 19, Stuart discloses the print spooler further includes a graphical user interface capable of displaying a status of each of a portion of the plurality of objects [130; column 3, lines 15-16].

Regarding claim 20, Stuart discloses that the method of claim 19 further comprising: (c) periodically updating the graphical user interface using a query that retrieves only the status for each of a second portion of the plurality of objects that was updated after a previous query [column 5, lines 19-33; column 7, lines 57-65].

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8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Wasseem H Hamdan whose telephone number is (571) 272-2166. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (first Friday off) 6:30 AM- 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew H Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wasseem Hamdan', with a stylized, cursive script.

Wasseem H. Hamdan

January 7, 2005